Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COPENH 03518 131844Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SWF-01 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-01 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-01 SP-02

STR-01 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 PA-01

PRS-01 USIA-06 NSC-05 SS-15 /073 W
---------- 056660
R 131613Z DEC 74
FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 164
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION OECD PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 3518

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EGEN, PFOR, EEC, DA
SUBJ: EC SUMMIT: DANISH REACTIONS

BEGIN SUMMARY: ASIDE FROM FAVORABLE PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY DANISH PARTICIPATNS, DANISH MEDIA REACTION TO EC SUMMIT WAS BLAND, PRINCIPALLY CONFIRMING THAT, AS EXPECTED, NOT MUCH OF SUBSTANCE HAD BEEN ACHIEVED. FONOFF UNDER SECRETARY WAS DECIDEDLY CYNICAL IN HIS COMMENTS TO US, EXPRESSING SOME DOUBT WHETHER AGREEMENT AT THE TOP ON BRITISH RENEGOTIATIONS AND REGIONAL FUND WOULD HOLD. HE FELT MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOME AS AGREEMENT TO REPLACE EXISTING
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PAGE 02 COPENH 03518 131844Z

SUMIT FORMAT WITH THREE CHIEFS OF GOVERNMENT

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

MEETINGS ANNUALLY WITHIN COUNCIL RULES. THIS,
HE FELT, WOULD GIVE SMALLER COUNTRIES A BETTER
CHANCE OF HAVING THEIR VIEWS HEARD. HE AND
OTHER DANISH CIVIL SERVANT PARTICIPANTS THOUGHT
ORGANIZATION OF MEETING WAS ATROCIOUS. END SUMMARY.

1. DANISH PRESS, PREOCCUPIED WITH ELECTION
CAMPAIGN, GAVE EC SUMMIT RESPECTABLE, GENERALLY
FAVORABLE, BUT UNDRAMATIC COVERAGE. SINCE THEY
HAD BEEN SAYING FOR WEEKS THAT NOT MUCH COULD
BE EXPECTED, FACT THAT THERE WERE SOME SUBSTAN-
TIVE AGREEMENTS GAVE SOMEWHAT GREATER APPEARANCE OF SUC-
CESS THAN PREVIOUS SUMMITS. BOTH PRIME MINISTER
AND FOREIGN MINISTER EXPRESSED SATISFACTION
WITH GERMAN AND DUTCH PROMISES TO REFLATE THEIR
ECONOMIES WHICH, THEY FELT, WOULD DIRECTLY HELP
DANISH ECONOMY AND REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT.

2. ON DEC. 12, CHARGE AND ECON COUNSELOR OB-
TAINED IMPRESSIONS OF SUMMIT FROM FONOFF UNDER
SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, JENS CHRISTENSEN.
HE SAID MEETING WAS CONFUSED AND BADLY ORGAN-
IZED "IN USUAL FRENCH FASHION." (WE HAD SIMILAR
DISGRUNTLED COMMENTS FROM OTHER CIVIL SERVANTS
WHO HAD BEEN AT PARIS MEETING, CLAIMED
THEY NEVER QUITE KNEW WHERE THEIR MINISTERS
WERE, AND MANAGED TO SEE THEM ONLY IN PASSING.)
CHRISTENSEN CAUSTICALLY COMMENTED THAT STATE-
MENTS BY PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER
THAT THIS HAD BEEN BEST MEETING THEY HAD ATTENDED
WERE VALID ONLY BECAUSE IT WAS THE ONLY SUMMIT
THEY HAD ATTENDED. NONETHELESS, HE SAW THREE
IMPORTANT RESULTS OF MEETING.

2. DEGLAMORIZED SUMMITS: FIRST, HE BELIEVED
THAT DECISION TO HOLD THREE, LESS GLAMORIZED,
SUMMITS A YEAR WAS A MAJOR STEP IN ASSURING
BETTER ORGANIZED, MORE RIGOROUSLY STRUCTURED
CHIEFS OF GOVERNMENT MEETINGS IN THE FUTURE,
PERMITTING FOCUS ON SOLUTIONS OF OUTSTANDING
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COMMUNITY PROBLEMS RATHER THAN CONTINUATION
OF TENDENCY AT PAST SUMMITS WHERE LEADERS -
ILL-INFORMED ON CONCRETE, PRESSING COMMUNITY
ISSUES - PONTIFICATED ON GENERALITIES. HE THOUGHT
NEW ARRANGEMENT WOULD BE PARTICULARLY BENEFICIAL
TO SMALLER MEMBER STATES SINCE MOST RECENT
PARIS SUMMIT AGAIN SHOWED TENDENCY OF BIGGER
POWERS TO HOG THE LIMELIGHT AND NOT GIVE THE

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

MINOR PLAYERS ANY STAGE-FRONT TIME. OPERATING
UNDER COUNCIL RULES, FUTURE SUMMITS SHOULD,
IN HIS VIEW, PROVIDE MUCH IMPORVED OPPORTUNITY
FOR SMALLER STATES TO MAKE THEIR POSITIONS KNOWN.

3. ANOTHER EFFECT OF NEW SUMMIT FORMAT, CHRISTENSEN
THOUGHT, WOULD BE REDUCTION IN THE IMPORTANCE
OF THE ROLE WHICH FOREIGN MINISTERS PLAY IN
THE COUNCIL. HE FELT THE TENDENCY WILL PROBABLY
BE FOR ALL IMPORTANT ISSUES TO BE DELAYED FOR
DECISION BY CHIEFS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING IN
COUNCIL. THIS, HE THOUGH, ON BALANCE, WOULD
BE BEBEFICIAL (PROVIDED PRIME MINISTERS WOULD
BE BETTER INFORMED AND PREPARED THAN PRESENTLY)
SINCE IT HAS BECOME CLEAR THAT DIVERGENT VIEWS
OF VARIOUS MINISTERS PARTICIPATING IN SEPARATE
COUNCIL MEETINGS CANNOT BE PULLED TOGETHER BY
FOREIGN MINISTERS AND MIGHT NOW BE RESOLVED
MORE EFFECTIVELY AND RAPIDLY BY PRIME MINISTERS
MEETING PERIODICALLY.

4. REGIONAL FUND. SECONDLY, CHRISTENSEN THOUGHT
DECISION FINALLY TO ESTABLISH A REGIONAL FUND
WAS SIGNIFICANT. HOWEVER, THE SIZE WAS TOO
SMALL TO HAVE ANY MAJOR EFFECT AND HE THOUGHT
THE BARGAINING FOR PERCENTAGE SHARES HAD BEEN
RATHER LUDICOUS. WE ASKED WHETHER GREENLAND
WOULD GET THE MAJOR PART OF THE DANISH SHARE.
CHRISTENSEN THOUGHT THIS OUGHT TO BE THE CASE
SINCE IT HAD BEEN PROMISED THE GREENLANDERS.
HOWEVER, HE WAS UNCERTAIN WHETHER CRITERIA TO
BE ESTABLISHED WOULD PERMIT INCLUSION OF GREENLAND.
WHILE RELATIVELY SANGUINE ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR
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PAGE 04 COPENH 03518 131844Z

REACHING AGREEMENT ON PROJECT CRITERIA AND FUND
ADMINISTRATION, CHRISTENSEN THOUGHT THE FUND
WAS STILL FAR FROM SECURE.

5. BRITISH RENEGOTIATIONS: THIRDLY, CHRISTENSEN
THOUGHT THAT "APPARENT" PROGRESS IN RESOLVING
THE BUDGET-SHARE ISSUE SHOULD BE REGARDED AS
AN IMPORTANT ACHIEVEMENT OF THE SUMMIT, BUT
HE WAS SUSPICIOUS THAT IT MERELY PAPERED OVER
DEEP DIFFERENCES WHICH STILL REMAINED. HE SAID
FLATLY THAT HE FELT THE FRENCH HAD NOT CHANGED
THEIR POSITION ALTHOUGH HE ADMITTED THAT ACCEPT-
ANCE BY THE FRENCH OF A COMMISSION STUDY MIGHT
SIGNIFY A STEP FORWARD.

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6. OTHER MATTERS. CHRISTENSEN SAID THAT THE DANISH RESERVATION ON ELECTION BY UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE OF THE EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY WAS UECESSITATED BY DIFFICULTIES WITH THE PARLIAMENTARY MARKETS COMMITTEE. FORTUNATELY, THE BRITISH RESERVATION MADE IT EASIER FOR DENMARK TO RESORT TO THIS PROCEDURE. HE SAW THE DANISH PROBLEM PARTLY THAT OF CONTINUING RELEUCTANCE AMONG THE PUBLIC TO ACCEPT THE IDEA OF CLOSER EUROPEAN UNION BUT, MORE IMMEDIATELY, IT WAS A TECHNICAL PROBLEM WITH ELECTORAL LAWS WHICH THE PARLIAMENT DID NOT WANT TO FACE AT THIS TIME.

7. EMBASSY COMMENT. CHRISTENSEN WAS ANNOYED BY THE ARRANGEMENTS AT THE SUMMIT WHICH KEPT HIM FROM CLOSE TABS ON DISCUSSIONS. BUT, MORE BASICALLY, HE REMAINS CONVINCED THAT NO PROGRESS IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CAN TAKE PLACE SO LANG AS THE PRESENT ECONOMIC CRISIS REMAINS. HE FEELS, THEREFORE, THAT LESS SHOULD BE SAID ABOUT GRAND PLANS FOR THE FUTURE AND MORE TIME SPENT ON THE PRAGMATIC RESOLUTION OF OUTSTANDING, COMMONLY SHARED, PROBLEMS SO AS TO KEEP THE COMMUNITY FROM REGRESSING. IN THIS ATTITUDE, HE PROBABLY EXPRESSES FAIRLY CLOSELY THE PREVAILING VIEWS OF THE DANISH PUBLIC--AT LEAST THOSE WHO THINK
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AT ALL SERIOUSLY ABOUT THE COMMUNITY.
DUNNIGAN

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